



# DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, STATE FIRE ACADEMY AND THE STATE HAZ-MAT TEAM

# FIRE SAFETY NEWS



March 2015

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## Upcoming Board meetings

**Electrical Board Meeting:**  
February 3, 2015, 9AM

**Elevator Board Meeting:**  
February 10, 2015 9AM

**Access:**  
February 23, 2015, 1:30PM  
March 30, 2015, 1:30PM

**Plumbing Board Meeting:**  
March 10, 2015, 9AM

## Director's Message

I was asked recently if the Fire Investigation Unit is restricted from conducting investigations on the weekend. It has been the practice since 2006 when the Division of Fire Safety joined the State Police Fire Investigation unit to conduct fire investigations on the weekends. Any fire resulting in injuries, death, high dollar loss or one that is suspicious would be investigated during the weekend.

Occasionally, an investigation of a fire that has occurred on a weekend may be postponed due to certain circumstances, for example, if a fire occurred late on a Sunday and it would be dark before the investigators arrived on the fire scene, then due to safety concerns for the investigators, the fire investigation would be conducted on Monday morning. Other examples, would be a building that is unstable and the Fire Department or insurance company cannot get a contractor or equipment to the fire scene to stabilize the building in a timely manner or a fire that involved hazardous materials that would need to be dealt with before the fire investigation could be conducted.

Fires which are deemed minor in nature and not suspicious after the Fire Investigation Unit consults with the Fire Chief may not be investigated on the weekend. We are in very tough financial shape and we are expected to manage our budgets accordingly and we have to prioritize. So as you can see we are not prohibiting investigations on the weekend.

Don't forget **Sunday March 8, 2015**  
is Daylight Savings Time.  
A great time to ...



# Heating Appliance Safety- Vermont Code Requirements

The use of efficient fuel-fired heaters that are vented horizontally through exterior walls has become quite common in many buildings in Vermont. These heating appliances may be located in basements or on first floors and may be vented 12 inches or more above grade. This can cause serious issues in areas where significant snowfall may occur.



After several incidents of carbon monoxide exposure occurred in Vermont, the state code was altered in the 2006 edition to require signage where vents terminated less than 7 feet above grade. These signs would indicate where vents were located so that they could be uncovered after heavy snowfalls. This requirement was amended in the 2012 edition of the Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code to require a "V" shape not less than 4 ½ inches in height, along with lettering indicating "Heating Vent" (Section 10.12.5 of NFPA 1).

Additionally, in both the 2006 and 2012 Vermont Codes, carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are required to be installed in buildings other than those where people sleep and located in the vicinity of the heating appliance when vents terminate within 7 feet of grade (Section 11.5.4.1 of NFPA 1).

This requirement augments the broad mandate for carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in all buildings where people sleep. This sweeping mandate was in reaction to several serious incidents, including the Redstone Campus incident in 2005, where one fatality and several serious injuries occurred.

Submitted by Bruce Martin,  
Regional Manager/ Springfield

## Prevent a Roof Collapse:

### Remove Ice and Snow

Snow Covered houses may look charming, but don't be fooled by their delicate beauty. Snow has a great deal of weight, and that weight increases immensely when rain, ice and sleet are added to the mix. Two feet of snow on the average-sized roof can be the equivalent of 38,000 pounds. All of this weight puts stress on your roof and weakens its structure. .

With snow in the forecast weekly all Vermonters are encouraged to clear the ice and snow off roofs, porches and other structures to reduce the risk of collapse and or other structural damages.



## Vermont Career Chiefs 2015 Seminar

### "Scientific Fire Fighting"

The Vermont Career Chiefs 2015 Seminar will be presented by FDNY Deputy Chief George Healy, The seminar will be held at the Lake Morey Inn and Resort on March 10, 2015. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the seminar begins at 8:30 am. This seminar is very informative and attendees should come with an open –mind. Please see the brochure and registration forms on pages 4, 5 and 6.

# Winter Hazards

## **Wood stove Safety:**

Getting the right size stove for your home is an important consideration when purchasing your stove. A stove that is too large can dangerously overheat a room and cause combustible materials to ignite. Burning smaller, less hot fires in a too-large stove can lead to dangerous buildup of creosote, a flammable chemical substance that forms when wood burns, possibly resulting in a chimney fire.



## **Chimney Fires:**

An uncontrollable chimney fire is scary and may be disastrous to your home or even life threatening for your family. GET OUT OF THE HOUSE AND CALL 911.

Causes of the deposits which lead to chimney fires include using green/wet fuels, the operation of appliances with insufficient air intake, and low operating temperatures for long periods followed by hot fires.

A clean chimney is your best defense against a dangerous chimney fire. Check your chimney at least every week. If it has a buildup of 1/4" or more of creosote, a chimney fire hazard exists.

Have the chimney inspected annually, and hire a certified chimney sweep to clean your chimney.

## **Candle Safety:**

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires—and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

More than 15, 000 candle fires are reported annually. According to fire experts, the bulk of candle-fire incidents are due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles.

Always keep a burning candle within sight. Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.

Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire. Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpet, books, paper, and flammable decorations.

Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room. Never burn too many candles in a small room.

Never extinguish candles with water. The water can cause the hot wax to splatter and might cause a glass container to break.

Use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle.

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters out of their reach.

## **Electrical Safety:**

Avoid overloading outlets and make sure they stay cool to the touch.

Keep covers over electrical plates and avoid exposed wiring.

Do not place wiring under rugs or in high traffic areas.

## **Clearing Snow from Roofs:**

Evaluate snow removal tasks from roofs and plan how to work safely.

Be aware of the potential and unexpected hazards due to weather conditions.

A surface that is weighed down by snow must be inspected to determine if it is structurally safe to access, because it may be at risk of collapsing.

Snow covered roofs can hide skylights that workers can fall through.

Always check for overhead power lines when working from a ladder or a roof.





# **VT CAREER FIRE CHIEFS 2015 SEMINAR**

**March 10, 2015**

**Lake Morey Inn and Resort  
Fairlee, Vermont**

The Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association

## **SCIENTIFIC FIREFIGHTING**

PRESENTED BY

**FDNY DEPUTY CHIEF GEORGE K. HEALY**

The understanding of fire dynamics is critical to safe fire ground operations. The fire environment has changed dramatically challenging the fire services ability to mitigate fire incidents. Attack strategies must take into account existing fire conditions and available resources to attack the fire. This presentation will discuss the recent testing conducted with Underwriters Laboratories and the National Institutes of standards and technologies into horizontal and vertical ventilation as well as wind-driven fires. The presentation will include information on ventilation profile, flow paths, modern fire dynamics and alternate strategies. Chief Healy draws on his fire ground experience as well as his extensive involvement in the ongoing testing with NIST and UL.

***Come with an open-mind. Some of the principles of fire attack we have long believed will be challenged!***

Deputy Chief George K. Healy is a 23-year veteran of the FDNY assigned to Division 13 Queens NY. His resume includes; Operations section chief Governor's Island burn testing alternate strategies for combating wind driven firers 2008. Operations section chief Governor's Island ventilation and suppression exercise 2012. Technical review panel Underwriters Laboratory Assistance to Firefighters grant horizontal ventilation and vertical ventilation. Lecturer FDNY High Rise Symposium, Chicago High Rise Symposium, UK Fire College Symposium, West Midlands UK seminar, FDIC and multiple national and international conferences. Fire service instructor I, Nassau Fire Academy instructor, Illinois Institute instructor, instructor Battalion Chief Command Course and Deputy Chief Development course and Chiefs Education day for the FDNY.



# Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Seminar

## Registration/Invoice

Tax ID 030 30 9890

Department Name

Name

Address

Town/City State Zip

Phone

E-Mail

☐

Check Enclosed

☐

Purchase Order Number

**Tuesday March 10, 2015**

**Seminar Registration 8:00 AM**

**Seminar begins 8:30 AM**

## \$100 per Person Includes Lunch

Checks payable to: **VT Career Fire Chiefs Association**

***Purchase orders accepted***

Registration Deadline: March 7, 2015

Mail registration and checks to:

**Chief Stephen Leinoff**

**Norwich Fire Department**

**PO Box 376**

**Norwich VT 05055**

802-649-1133 option 3 [sleinoff@norwich.vt.us](mailto:sleinoff@norwich.vt.us)

## LAKE MOREY INN AND RESORT

Participants are responsible for making their own room reservations. Call 1-800-333-4311. Ask for the VT Career Chiefs Rate.

## DIRECTIONS

The Lake Morey Inn and Resort is located off Exit 15 Interstate 91 in Fairlee VT. When you exit I 91 head west and make the first right.

<http://lakemoreyresort.com/Directions.html>

## The Vermont Career Fire Chiefs Association

Yes I would like to contribute at the following level:

- ☐ Gold: Contributions of \$500 or more. Gold contributors will receive a full-page advertisement in the student workbook, and with a power point presentation that will run during registration and breaks.
- ☐ Silver: Contributions of \$150 to \$400. Silver Contributors will be recognized with ¼ page advertisement in the student work book, and with a power point presentation that will run during registration and breaks.
- ☐ Bronze: Contributions of \$50.00 to \$150. Bronze contributors will receive a business card size advertisement in the student workbook.

Name:  Company:   
Address:   
City:  State:  Zip:   
Telephone:  E-mail:

Make checks payable to VT Career Fire Chiefs Association, Send to: VT Career Fire Chiefs Association,

Chief Steve Leinoff, Treasurer

PO Box 376 Norwich VT 05055

QUESTIONS: (802) 649-1133 option 3 or [sleinoff@norwich.vt.us](mailto:sleinoff@norwich.vt.us)

Please e-mail or US mail art work or business card so we can recognize your contribution.

# Smoke Alarms

## at Home

**SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART** of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.



### SAFETY TIPS

- !!! Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- !!! Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- !!! It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- !!! Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- !!! There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- !!! A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- !!! People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- !!! Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

### FACTS

- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Name of Organization Here

Contact Information Here




State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety

# Division of Fire Safety

[www.firesafety.vermont.gov](http://www.firesafety.vermont.gov)

## CALENDAR OF FIRE EVENTS

### March 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16		18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Date	Event	Location
3	Town Meeting Day ~ <b>State Offices Closed</b>	ALL
8	Daylight Savings	ALL
10	Plumbing Board	BERLIN
18	Division Training	BERLIN
30	Access Board	BERLIN



#### ~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

Mar 8, 2015 ~ Daylight Savings Begins  
 Mar 17, 2015 ~ St. Patrick's Day  
 Mar 20, 2015 ~ First Day of Spring  
 Mar 29, 2015 ~ Palm Sunday



### April 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Date	Event	Location
7	Electrical Board Meeting	BERLIN
14	Elevator Board Meeting	BERLIN
27	Access Board Meeting	BERLIN

#### ~BOARD DEADLINE REMINDER~

If you have a board agenda item, it needs to be received at the Central Office no later than **2 weeks** prior to the board meeting. (for all boards – Access, Electrical, Elevator & Plumbing)



#### ~ NATIONAL EVENTS ~

April 3, 2015 ~ Good Friday  
 April 4, 2015 ~ Passover  
 April 5, 2015 ~ Easter  
 April 22, 2015 ~ Earth Day  
 April 22, 2015 ~ Administrative Professionals Day





State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety

MARCH 2015

1311 US Route 302—Berlin Suite 600

Barre, VT 05641-2351

FIRESAFETY.VERMONT.GOV

*To be added to the monthly newsletter email  
mailing list contact the Central Office  
(802) 479-7561*

**REMEMBER .... Smoke Detectors, Fire Sprinklers and Carbon  
Monoxide Detectors Save Lives**

Vermont Department of Public Safety

## ***Division of Fire Safety***

### **Central Office**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 600  
Barre, VT 05641-2351  
Phone (802) 479-7561 Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 640-2106

### **HAZMAT Response Team**

Phone (802) 479-7586  
Fax (802) 479-7562  
Toll Free (800) 641-5005

### **Vermont Fire Academy**

93 Davison Drive  
Pittsford, VT 05763  
Phone (802) 483-2755 Fax (802) 483-2464  
Toll Free (800) 615-3473

## **Regional Offices:**

### **Barre**

1311 US Route 302— Suite 500  
Barre, VT 05641-7301  
Phone (802) 479-4434 Fax (802) 479-4446  
Toll Free 1-888-870-7888

### **Springfield**

100 Mineral Street, Suite 307  
Springfield VT 05156-3168  
Phone (802) 885-8883 Fax (802) 885-8885  
Toll Free 1-866-404-8883

### **Rutland**

56 Howe Street, Building A-Suite 200  
Rutland, VT 05701  
Phone (802) 786-5867 Fax (802) 786-5872  
Toll Free (888) 370-4834

### **Williston**

372 Hurricane Lane, Suite 102  
Williston, VT 05495-7151  
Phone (802) 879-2300 Fax (802) 879-2312  
Toll Free (800) 366-8325

## **DIVISION OF STATE POLICE—FIRE INVESTIGATION**

Waterbury—103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-2101— (802) 244-8781—Fax (802) 241-5371